

OFFICIAL

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

LINCOLN, RI 02865

DATE: April 10, 2006

TIME: 7:00pm – Monthly Meeting - Open

PLACE: Lincoln Town Hall

100 River Road, Lincoln, RI

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Jeffrey Weiss, Chair; John Zangari, Clerk, John Lafleur, Betty Robson, Gerard St. Germain and Julie Zito. Mary Ann Roll, Vice Chair, was absent.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Tindall-Gibson, Superintendent, Lori Miller, Georgia Fortunato, Angelo Mencucci, and Ben Scungio.

Motion by St. Germain to open meeting. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor. Motion carried.

Weiss asked the Committee for a motion to adjust the agenda to hand out student awards. Motion by St. Germain. Seconded by Robson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Tindall-Gibson introduced Bob Martin, Lincoln High School Principal.

Martin recognized all students' parents and introduced Brian Corry, Athletic Director, who in turn introduced the Girls' Basketball coaches, Mike Bedrossian and Beth Bedrossian, and Hockey coaches Denis Riel and Ted Polak. Citations were handed out to students.

Five minute recess was taken for athletes to adjourn.

Right to be Heard

Weiss said a couple of meetings ago, Mr. St.Germain accurately pointed out that Right To Be Heard is restricted to items that are on our agenda. Everyone who asked to be heard tonight will not be heard at the beginning. Anyone who does not get heard in the regular session has the right to stand up at the end of the meeting.

Rick Battistoni is a Saylesville parent and the Vice Chair of SIT. He discussed moving the middle school start time. He urged the Committee to vote in favor of allowing the middle school students to get the extra half hour sleep. He also hopes we explore the question of when the high school will start in the year 2007/2008. Battistoni said he contacted the RIIL and they see no problem with sports. We could begin high school up to an hour later with no problems for the sports schedule.

Ann Moskol from Limerock reiterated what Mr. Battistoni said.

MaryAnn McComiskey made a point of clarification. She wanted to

know if the people who completed the Right to be Heard form, if they were notified why they could not speak. She discussed the appointing of the PE position and believes there will be contractual violations, i.e., first aide certification and Red Cross guidelines. Weiss said, in discussing this with the Administration, they verified the accreditations. McComiskey said unfortunately that was done after the whole quarter had been instructed and the Red Cross requires that the instruction be given by a first aide certified person.

Weiss said the next item is not on the agenda but if the Committee wishes, we could allow them to speak. One representative was allowed to speak. Janette McCaffrey, grade 1 teacher at Northern, spoke. She said there are eight new registrations and nine retention letters. The ELC is a Title I school. Please reconsider restoring the grade one teaching position. Karen Tougas, a parent of NELC, circulated a petition around the ELC and community. The petition states we the undersigned do not agree with the proposed cut of a first grade classroom at the NELC and to provide a high quality of education and maintain that status of a high improving school, you need to maintain seven first grade classrooms.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Zangari to seal April 10, 2006 Executive Session minutes. Seconded by St. Germain. All in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Zito to approve amended minutes with Gerard as the proper name for Mr. St. Germain. The minutes are as follows: October 17, 2005 Executive

Session Meeting minutes, January 23, 2006 Budget Meeting minutes, January 30, 2006 Budget Meeting minutes, March 13, 2006 Executive Session Meeting minutes, March 13, 2006 Monthly Meeting minutes, March 28, 2006 Executive Session Meeting minutes, and March 28, 2006 Special Meeting minutes. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Superintendent's Report

Northern SALT Report

Linda Cliff presented the SALT report with Sheila Goulis, a Northern 4th grade teacher. The purpose of the SALT visit is a lasting question. They want to know how well the students do at Northern, how does it affect the teaching and learning at that school, and how well does Northern Elementary support that teaching environment. That was the entire purpose of the visit. Robson asked about reexamining the sharing of facilities and staff with the ELC. Cliff said part of the problem they saw was that even though we are two schools, we have one gym/cafeteria so every single period that is available during the day has either cafeteria or gym in it and some times they overlap. The SALT report saw that as a negative thing. Weiss thanked Cliff for all the hard work that was done.

Rescission of Early Admissions Policy

Tindall-Gibson discussed the Early Admission Policy. He handed out the existing policy. The Committee took an action at the March meeting which was to set a date and amend this policy. Since that meeting, he had been in touch with the legal staff at the Department of Education. It is unlawful for a School Committee to set a date other than what is set by statute which is September 1st. He suggests that they adopt a policy that is in strict compliance with state law. Our policy is JEBA. If we revise it, it might read as follows: the Lincoln School Committee hereby adopts without exception R.I.G.L. 16-2-27 as amended from time to time which states that every child who has attained or will have attained five years of age on or before September 1st of any school year shall be eligible to attend kindergarten during all of the days that the kindergartens are in session during the school year. This will be placed on the May 15th Agenda for a first reading. Zangari said the reason for having an early admission policy was for exceptional children. Do we have a plan to do something for those kids? Tindall-Gibson said he would convene a task force made of up 12 to 15 members of the community and charge that task force with identifying all the different types of enriching activities that might be available to students in grades K – 12 and make some recommendations. He would like to establish some specific tasks, timelines, and assignments. Weiss appointed Zangari to head up the task force. Robson and Lafleur would also like to be on the task force.

Middle School Start Time

Tindall-Gibson said Angelo Mencucci, Director of Operations, worked with a small committee to explore the possibilities and find out what the options are considering the constraints of a contract with a transportation company and a limited budget. He discussed the recommendations: the high school would keep the same schedule it is currently on right now (7:30am) and all of the elementary schools (9:10am) would move to a schedule very close to a schedule that half of the elementaries are on right now. The middle school (8:10am) would have it's own start time which is sandwiched halfway between those two. We would have a three tier transportation system instead of two. Laidlaw has experimented with this and knows all the routes will work. It makes it possible for all our elementary teachers to be on a same schedule for meetings right after school. Motion by Zangari to approve. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Revised Custodian/Lead Person Job Description

Tindall-Gibson said he is requesting a modification of that job description. Weiss asked if the union reviewed the changes. Mencucci said yes they have. Motion to approve by Zangari. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Strategic Plan

Fortunato reviewed the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Planning Committee met on February 6, 2006 and March 17, 2006. She recognized the individuals on the committee. Fortunato read out loud

the mission statement that will be driving the Strategic Plan from 2006 to 2009. Action Planning Subcommittees will be created. At this point in time. Mrs. Lemay has forwarded the Action Items to all the Strategic Planning members and they will get back to her as to what sub-action committee they will be on. These action committees will take place October and November of 2006. They will try to get as many members of the community involved as well. There will be an outreach session and public forum. The action plans will be implemented for the 06-07 school year with reports to the School Committee in January 07 and June 07. Weiss thanked all involved. Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.

Business Manager Report

Miller referred to page 1. The Substitute line is currently showing a negative \$12,000 variance, which is pretty good. Teacher Coverages is showing a \$21,000 positive variance, and even though this is our heaviest time of year for coverages, she believes this account will end in the black. Line 105, Substitute Custodians, is still showing a \$23,000 positive variance. Line 139, Homebound Tutoring, is showing a positive variance of \$22,000. Page 4, Line 250, Health Insurance, has a \$98,000 positive variance. Health Options will be a little overspent. Tuitions, Line 370, is showing a

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consistent negative balance of \$43,000. Purchased Services, Line 397, is \$177,000 in the negative but we knew that and that is why, for the 06-07 budget, we requested \$450,000 in that account. Account 410 and 411, Electric and Heat, we will be a little overspent in Heat. But, Electric is showing a \$124,000 positive variance. They should balance each other out. Weiss said we added \$80,000 from reform.

Engineering Services for Fire Codes

Miller said Town Administrator Sheppard needed the Committee approval on the architectural services and proposal with a \$36,000 expenditure. Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor. Motion carried.

Civic Use of Buildings

None

Resignation

a. Andrea Pawluch From: Senior Accounting Technician
1 Elder Ballou Meeting House Road Effective: April 13, 2006
Cumberland, RI 02864

Motion by St. Germain to approve. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Leave of Absence Requests

a. Diane Avery From: Art teacher – Lonsdale

36 Scenery Lane Sabbatical Leave (14 weeks)

Johnston, RI 02919 Effective: August 31, 2006 to December 4, 2006

b. Shelly Cavanaugh From: Grade 4 teacher - Saylesville

4 Ashley Drive Medical (paid)

Lincoln, RI 02865 Effective: April 3, 2006 to end of s/y

b. Charleen Lagace From: Grade 4 teacher – Northern

37 Perrin Avenue Adoption (paid)

Pawtucket, RI 02861 Effective: April 10, 2006 to May 19, 2006

c. Christine Mellor From: Math teacher – MS

177 Nipmuc Road Sabbatical

Foster, RI 02825 Effective: 2006 – 2007 school year

d. Bonnie Spano From: Resource teacher – Northern

32 Alexander Street Medical (paid)

Lincoln, RI 02865 Effective: March 30, 2006 to April 26, 2006

**Motion by St. Germain to approve. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

Teacher Appointments

a. Bob Capron To: .2 Social Studies – HS

35 Elisha Mathewson Road Effective: March 1, 2006 to end of s/y

North Scituate, RI 02857 Salary: \$3,157.28 (MA Step 1)

**b. Michelle Bothello To: .4 PE/Health teacher – HS
19 Westwood Road Effective: April 3, 2006 to end of s/y
Lincoln, RI 02865 Salary: \$4,241.97(BA Step 2)**

**Motion by St. Germain to approve. Seconded by Zito. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

Spring Coaching Appointments

**a. Tom Balzano To: Assistant Boy's Lacrosse
29 Livingston Street Effective: 2005 – 2006 school year
Lincoln, RI 02865 Salary: \$2,396.02 (pending certification)**

**Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

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Long-Term Substitute Appointment

**a. Marc Pelagalli To: LTS .6 PE/Health teacher – HS
40 Lakeview Drive Effective: April 3, 2006 to end of s/y
Providence, RI 02910 Salary: \$5,994.07 (BA Step 1)**

Motion by St. Germain to approve. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor.

Motion carried.

Informational Only

a. Diana Asselin From: 1:1 TA – HS

15 Riverside Drive To: TA, Int. K – NELC

Lincoln, RI 02865 Effective: 2006 – 2007 school year

b. Kristen DeMelo From: 1:1 TA – HS

70 Tucker Street To: 1:1 TA – HS

Lincoln, RI 02865 Effective: 2006 – 2007 school year

Awarding of Bids

Miller reviewed the Substitute Tracking Bid. Specifications were given to six vendors. Four vendors responded. Frontline Placement Technologies (AESOP) is the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and is awarded the bid in the amount of approximately \$750 per month and should include one-time start-up costs (training) of \$3,250. Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Robson. All in favor. Zangari asked if this is going to replace our sub caller? Miller said she does not see it as a replacement because there will always be last minute things. We have been paying our sub caller for two hours a day. She is in fact working five hours a day. This will not only find subs, but it will track absences so that on any given day, we will have a recording of who is out, why, and who is in for them. Motion carried.

Salary Warrants

Salary/Expense Warrants

School Payroll (Local Budget) 3/2/06	\$1,139,445.78	School Payroll (Local Budget) 3/16/06	\$ 1,030,185.54
Perkins Grant (867,868)	\$	Perkins Grant	\$
Literacy	\$ 8,837.91	Literacy	\$ 8,837.91
Professional Development	\$	Professional Development	\$ 59.31
Athletics	\$ 615.00	SALT Regents Fellow	\$
Class Size Reduction 815	\$ 6,865.19	Athletics	\$ 533.00
Title I 825	\$ 10,697.18	Class Size Reduction	\$ 5,394.23
Title II 866	\$ 29,821.19	Title I	\$ 11,168.68
IDEA Part B	\$	Title II	\$
Tuitions-ELC Preschool	\$ 125.00	IDEA Part B	\$ 31,138.30
Preschool Sec. 619	\$ 1,068.04	High School Reform	\$
Title V	\$	Preschool Sec. 619	\$ 1,068.04
Title III	\$	Title V	\$ 620.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,197,534.60	TOTAL	\$ 1,089,034.68

**Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Zito. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

**Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

School Payroll (Local Budget) 3/30/06 \$1,011,028.16

Perkins Grant (867,868) \$

Literacy \$ 8,837.91

Professional Development \$ 360.00

Athletics \$ 451.00

Class Size Reduction 815 \$ 5,394.23

Title I 825 \$ 10,492.18

Title II 866 \$

IDEA Part B \$ 30,480.25

Tuitions-ELC Preschool \$

Preschool Sec. 619 \$ 1,068.04

Title V \$ 560.00

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Title III \$ 369.00

TOTAL \$ 1,069,040.77

**Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

EXPENSE WARRANTS – 4/10/06

Invoices Paid in Advance \$ 520,289.27

Invoices for Payment

010 Operating Budget	\$ 432,986.48
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019 Professional Development	\$ 4,276.57
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890 TITLE I	\$ 595.00
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868 Perkins Grant	\$ 339.55
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879 Title III	\$ 2,180.65
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TOTAL	\$ 440,378.25
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Grand Total Invoices	\$ 960,667.52
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**Motion by St. Germaini to approve. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

EXPENSE WARRANTS – 4/10/06 A

Invoices Paid in Advance	\$
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Invoices for Payment

010 Operating Budget	\$ 334,462.15
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861 RI Skills Comm.	\$ 981.75
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TOTAL	\$ 335,443.90
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Grand Total Invoices	\$ 335,443.90
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**Motion by St. Germaini to approve. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

Old Business

Weiss discussed the budget negotiations. We had originally put forward a budget request of \$45,669,469 and after revenues from the Town had been tabulated, it became clear that we would substantially exceed the 5.5% tax cap. We have a final budget of \$44,992,620. It's not clear how we will create initial positions. Furthermore, because of additional cuts that they have recommended, we will have to trim additional positions from our budget. Weiss wants the community to realize that it's really not in the Committee's power to create new positions. It is possible to eliminate other positions, perhaps, and move other things around. Robson said we have already committed to maintaining low class sizes and if the numbers are significantly higher than we thought they were, we are going to have to find a way to rectify this. Weiss said we will have to find some other position in the budget that we will have to cut in order to get what they had. Zangari thinks it's important for people to know what is not going to happen. Weiss said the majority of the Capital from the original proposal was retained, however, the roofs were moved to the bond. Tindall-Gibson will put together a press release and detail some of the Capital items that were not recommended.

New Business

None

School Committee Reports

None

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Community Comments

Sandy Laverdierre asked what constitutes Old Business and also asked how you get something on the agenda. Tindall-Gibson said the way you get something on the agenda is you contact somebody on the School Committee seven days in advance. Attorney Scungio said it has to be specific on the agenda as to what it is. You can talk about anything under Community Comments and, if the item is not listed specifically on the agenda, the School Committee cannot discuss it.

Debbie Squizzero, NELC Resource teacher, said we need to keep the seven first grades that we have. Many children's needs are identified in grade 1. Northern is very transient population.

Peg Schick, NELC Reading Recovery teacher, said 30% of our present

first grades receive literacy services. Keeping class size small is critical to the development of our students at the NELC. She has asked the Committee to reinstate the seventh first grade.

MaryAnn McComiskey wanted to clarify the statement “ when we restore a teacher, we need to eliminate a teacher”. She believes we need to look at the budget globally and decisions should be made by best educational practices.

Motion by St. Germain to adjourn to Executive Session.. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor. Motion carried.

JOHN ZANGARI, CLERK DATE